

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An air-conditioning resistor comprising:  
a panel member formed with an opening for an  
operating element and an airflow port;

5 a retainer formed on the panel member so as to  
communicate with the airflow port and to define  
interiorly an airflow passage for allowing  
air-conditioning air to flow therethrough;

a lateral fin pivotably supported in the retainer  
10 and being capable of adjusting a wind direction of the  
air-conditioning air in a vertical direction;

a vertical fin pivotably supported in the retainer  
and being capable of adjusting the wind direction of  
the air-conditioning air in the lateral direction; and

15 a spherical operating element which can operate  
the vertical fin and the lateral fin simultaneously and  
has a partial spherical surface arranged so as to project  
from the opening for the operating element.

20 2. An air-conditioning resistor according to  
claim 1, wherein the spherical operating element  
comprises an operation angle display element on the  
partial spherical surface, and the coordinate of the  
operation angle display element at the opening for the  
25 operating element and the wind direction of the  
air-conditioning air blown out from the airflow port  
correspond to each other.

3. An air-conditioning resistor according to claim 1, further comprising a ring-shaped operating element on the outer peripheral side of the spherical operating element so as to be adjacent thereto is  
5 employed.

4. An air-conditioning resistor according to claim 3, wherein the ring-shaped operating element is used for adjusting the temperature of the  
10 air-conditioning air.

5. An air-conditioning resistor according to claim 1, further comprising a lateral fin link mechanism for mechanically linking the spherical operating element  
15 and the lateral fin, and a vertical fin link mechanism for mechanically linking the spherical operating element and the vertical fin.

6. An air-conditioning resistor according to  
20 claim 5, wherein the spherical operating element comprises a bipolar portion including an upper polar surface, a lower polar surface and an equator portion storage frame defined between the upper polar surface and the lower polar surface, and an equator portion being  
25 stored in the equator portion storage frame with an allowance for a pivotal movement in a lateral direction, and wherein the bipolar portion is mechanically linked

with the lateral fin via the lateral fin link mechanism, and the equator portion is mechanically linked with the vertical fin via the vertical fin link.

5           7.     An air-conditioning resistor according to claim 1, further comprising a shut damper pivotably supported in the retainer and being capable of opening and closing the airflow path, the spherical operating element can also operate the shut damper.

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8.     An operating unit comprising:

        a spherical operating element having a partial spherical surface arranged so as to be projected from an opening of the panel member; and

15          a ring-shaped operating element arranged on an outer peripheral side of the spherical operating element so as to be adjacent thereto.

20           9.     An operating unit according to claim 8, further comprising:

        a first member directly or indirectly supported in the panel member pivotably in a vertical direction; and

25          a second member directly or indirectly supported in the panel member pivotably in a lateral direction,

        wherein the spherical operating element can operate the first and second members simultaneously.

10. An operating unit according to claim 9,  
wherein the spherical operating element comprises a  
bipolar portion including an upper polar surface, a lower  
5 polar surface and an equator portion storage frame  
defined between the upper polar surface and the lower  
polar surface, and an equator portion being stored in  
the equator portion storage frame with an allowance for  
a pivotal movement in a lateral direction, and wherein  
10 the bipolar portion is mechanically linked with the first  
member and the equator portion is mechanically linked  
with the second member.